

leads to deficiencies in their children's development. We need to recognize the way that gender inequality contributes to disease and address these disparities through increased education and outreach and equal access to medical treatment and support services.

As international trade transforms economies around the world, we must ensure that women have equal access to these opportunities. In one-third of the world, women are the breadwinners for their families. Female farmers account for 80 percent of the agricultural workforce in Africa, and 60 percent in Asia. Yet despite their contributions to the economy, women make up 60 percent of the world's working poor, struggling to survive on less than one dollar a day. They are too often placed in situations of informal employment—temporary or part-time positions that do not offer a formal salary or benefits. We must ensure that all girls and women have access to educational opportunities that can lead to employment at an adequate wage, and that women receive fair compensation for labor performed outside a traditional workplace setting.

It has been more than a decade since I traveled to Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. This week, the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations is convening to evaluate the progress we have made in achieving the goals we set at that time. We must work to ensure that the commitments we made then become reality now. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and counterparts in other governments to create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

IRANIAN WOMEN

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on an issue that resonates with all Americans, especially today—a day when the entire world celebrates International Women's Day. It is important to raise the issue of the oppression of women, in hope that public awareness will change these practices and this prejudice.

I would like to specifically raise awareness of the plight of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In Iran, women are considered to be worth a half of a man and have extremely limited rights. It is the policy of the Government of Iran to deny women the opportunities that men are afforded.

The current Iranian Government has rescinded laws that were implemented prior to the revolution regarding women's legal rights. This initiative against women's rights was justified by an edict that laws in conflict with Sharia Law had to be abolished. The edict resulted in a new set of restrictive laws for women.

Women in Iran are severely oppressed, and their ability to speak out

against current conditions is limited. While they can speak out, they face certain punishment for doing so. There are many examples of Iranian women, young and old, who have spoken out against the lack of opportunity for women in Iran. For example, Elham Afroutan is a 19-year-old Iranian journalist who was arrested a few months ago because of an op-ed she wrote in a newspaper. She is now imprisoned in Tehran, and it has been reported that she has been brutally raped and tortured. Elham's parents have only heard from her a couple of times, and the Iranian Government has refused to give any updates on her condition.

Also of importance is the case of Zahra Kazemi, the 54-year-old Iranian and Canadian journalist, who was arrested for photographing a demonstration outside Tehran's Evin prison. It is reported that while imprisoned, Zahra was tortured, raped, and later murdered. The Iranian Government later claimed that she committed suicide. The doctor who examined Zahra's body later determined that she died as a result of the beating and torture that she endured while imprisoned. After Zahra's family demanded an autopsy of her body, it was later discovered that the Iranian Government had injected Zahra's body with various chemicals so as to destroy her body and any evidence against her attackers.

This oppression of Iranian women, and all women around the world, must end. Never should a woman feel afraid to walk out of her home, speak up, or voice her opinion. Never should a woman have less of an opportunity than a man.

People around the world today, on International Women's Day, must unite behind one cause—equality, justice, and opportunity for all women.

THE FIVE-SEVEN PISTOL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Five-Seven handgun, manufactured by the Belgian firearms company FN Herstal, was reportedly designed to provide military and law enforcement personnel with a small, lightweight, and accurate pistol that was powerful enough to kill or seriously injure enemies wearing body armor. A January 2000 cover article in the popular American Handgunner magazine profiled the handgun and predicted that, for obvious reasons, "neither the gun nor the ammunition will ever be sold to civilians." Unfortunately, the American Handgunner article was wrong and FN Herstal made the Five-Seven pistol available to private buyers in 2004. These high-powered firearms clearly have no sporting purpose and pose a great threat to the lives of our law enforcement officers.

According to the FN Herstal website, the Five-Seven weighs less than 2 pounds fully loaded and measures only 8.2 inches in length, making it easily concealable. A statement which previously appeared on the website boast-

ed "Enemy personnel, even wearing body armor can be effectively engaged up to 200 meters. Kevlar helmets and vests as well as the CRISAT protection will be penetrated." This statement has since been removed.

Ballistics tests conducted by the American Handgunner for their January 2000 article provided evidence of the armor-piercing capabilities of the Five-Seven pistol. In the tests, ammunition fired by the Five-Seven successfully pierced level IIA Kevlar body armor and penetrated 6 inches into ballistics testing gelatin behind it. According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, level IIA Kevlar body armor is the kind commonly worn by law enforcement officers.

The already lethal nature of the Five-Seven handgun was amplified when Congress failed to renew the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, allowing it to expire on September 14, 2004. Among other things, Congress's inaction resulted in the legalization of previously banned high-capacity magazines, including the 20 round clip currently sold with the Five-Seven.

The law enforcement community is rightfully concerned about the Five-Seven's ability to kill law enforcement personnel, even while they are wearing protective body armor. Last year, a coalition of law enforcement groups including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives issued a warning to their members about the threat posed by Five-Seven handguns.

Bernard Thompson, director of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, warned regarding the Five-Seven:

No one is safe from a weapon like this. Police body armor won't offer protection if a criminal has this pistol.

In addition, the legislative director of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Steve Lenkhart, called the Five-Seven "an assault rifle that fits in your pocket."

In response to concerns raised by law enforcement officials and others, Senator LAUTENBERG introduced the Protect Law Enforcement Armor Act on March 3, 2005. Among other things, this legislation would prohibit the sale of the Five-Seven pistol and its ammunition to private buyers in the U.S. Unfortunately, despite the continuing threat posed by this high-powered pistol to our law enforcement officers, Senator LAUTENBERG's legislation has yet to receive any consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee in the year since it was introduced.

We should not ignore the concerns of our law enforcement officers with regard to the Five-Seven pistol and other military-style firearms. Congress should take up and pass commonsense legislation banning the sale of these dangerous weapons because of the threat they pose to the safety of our communities and those who work so hard each day to protect them.